



Adopt-a-Trail Volunteer

...for the Espanola & Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts

What would I do?: The trail adopter adopts one or more trails on the Espanola and/or Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger Districts. Duties include lopping and brushing back bushes and tree limbs that have grown over the trail, picking up trash, cleaning out behind water bars and rolling grade dips, cutting logs off the trail (must be Forest Service crosscut or chainsaw trained prior to conducting this activity), and reporting concerns or hazards at the trailhead and along the trail.

Who may enjoy this opportunity?: The ideal person or group to adopt a trail would be those that love being out on the trails and would be willing to maintain/monitor their adopted trail(s) at least twice a year.

What qualifications do I need?: No qualifications are necessary. An organized training or one-on-one meeting with the District Volunteer Coordinator will be conducted prior to official trail adoption. In addition, the individual or group must comply with Forest Service safety standards and wear long pants, long sleeves, above-ankle boots, safety glasses, a hard hat, and leather gloves.

How often should I be in contact with the District Volunteer Coordinator during my time as a volunteer?: The trail adopter should contact the District Volunteer Coordinator before and after they maintain/monitor their trail. In some instances a radio will be provided for extended backcountry trips.

How much of a time commitment is this opportunity?: Trail adoption should happen at least twice a year. During your day on the trail, it may take you 3-4 hours or the entire day (or more) to access the trail, clear the trail of brush, pick up trash, and clean out behind water bars and rolling grade dips.

How would I benefit from this opportunity/?: Trail adoption provides the individual or group with the opportunity to get outside and make a difference on their public lands. Volunteering on the trails provides many benefits such as exercise, flexibility for your schedule, new skills learned, meeting new people, enjoying nature, and even improving your resume. Many people that volunteer say they use the trails and want to give back for future generations and help promote sustainable trails.

Is there an interview/training?: No formal interview is required but the District Volunteer Coordinator will speak with you about why you'd like to get involved and the requirements, plus will provide training prior to starting your trail adoption. A volunteer agreement with an attached Job Hazard Analysis will be filled out and signed by the individual and group and then followed up for review and signature from the District Ranger.

What time of year is this opportunity offered?: Trail adoption occurs typically during the spring, summer, and fall when the ground is clear of snow. Trail adopters should be advised that performing duties on the adopted trail during high winds and thunderstorms is not safe and all activity should be postponed to a more suitable day or different time of day. NO HOUSING IS PROVIDED.

Are tools and equipment provided?: Loppers, small saws, and other trail tools will be provided to the individual or group on a short-term basis (single workday). Hard hats will also be provided. The individual or group will be responsible for all loaned tools and equipment. Purchasing loppers and smalls saws is highly recommended, due to the limited tool supply for each District.

Do I need CPR/First Aid training?: No, it is not required for this volunteer opportunity. However, it is recommended that anyone spending time on the trails for leisure or volunteering become certified in at least Community CPR/First Aid and Wilderness First Aid.

Whom do I contact for the opportunity?: Please contact Jennifer Sublett, District Volunteer Coordinator, at 505-753-7331 or jasublett@fs.fed.us

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